

Jackson Award (from page 4)

When NASA launched TDRS-1 in 1983, it was the largest and most sophisticated communications satellite ever built. Five additional Northrop Grumman (then TRW) built satellites were subsequently placed into orbit through 1995 (TDRS 2 was lost aboard the Shuttle Challenger). All of the original series spacecraft are still on-orbit and functioning, serving human Earth-orbiting and robotic science missions, as well as other national missions and commercial users.

NASA launched three replenishment spacecraft in June 2000, March 2002 and December 2002, built by Boeing Satellite Systems. The entire TDRS fleet and their associated ground control facilities comprise the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System, a sophisticated communication signal relay system that transmits voice and television, as well as digital and analog data between user satellites and Earth-based control centers. The system greatly enhances the productivity of space assets by transmitting and receiving data from customer satellites over their entire orbit, compared to just 15 percent previously provided by ground stations.

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Susan Hendrix

Office of Public Affairs
Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD
(Phone: 301-286-7745)

For more information about NASA's Space Network and Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System, go to: <http://nmssp.gsfc.nasa.gov/tdrss/>

Phil Liebrecht, in an e-mail sent to Program personnel March 22, 2004, says in part, *"This award rightly belongs to you, the hundreds of dedicated men and women who conceived, developed and operated this system over a period of more than 25 years...The citation starts with these words: "TDRSS has profoundly altered the state of Earth-orbit communications." and continues with "Data relayed through TDRSS has been critical to scientists investigating both near and deep space phenomena and earth science." On behalf of the entire NASA management team, thank you for making this possible. With your continued dedication to mission excellence I look forward to a bright and fulfilling future. Congratulations!"*

Al Diaz, Center Director, expressed his congratulations in an e-mail dated March 22, 2004. The e-mail says, *"I was privileged to be in the crowd on Friday when Phil received this award on all of our behalf. It was great to see it happen but I must say that the significance of the award was enhanced today at the VITS when Bill Readdy recognized it as being "long overdue". I agree with that. Safe conduct of the Human Space Flight Program has been enabled by the capability provided by everyone at Goddard involved in this activity, Civil Servants and contractors. This is indeed an honor for all of them but one that is well deserved and long overdue. Please pass my thanks and congratulations to all."*

Systems Advisory Committee

The Systems Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed to provide a forum for discussion of system issues. Based on findings, recommendations are made to Code 450 management for possible further action/direction to the Project Managers. External advice is also provided from outside of Code 450, based on the Independent Technical Authority recommendation from the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) report. The SAC will not infringe on any existing Project Management (PM) responsibilities, and will not duplicate any existing project Configuration Control Boards (CCBs). The

first SAC meeting was convened on February 4, 2003; the main topic of discussion was options for follow on TDRSS. More SAC meetings will be conducted.

The SAC staff is comprised of Frank Stocklin/Code 450, Ted Sobchak/Code 453, Bryan Gioannini/Code 452, Tom Gitlin/Code 452, John Martin/Code 451, Jon Walker/Code 451, Dave Israel/Code 567, Ken Perko/Code 567, Ed Lowe/Code 454, and Dave Taylor/NENS Architect.

By Frank Stocklin

Contact at (301) 286-6339
Frank.J.Stocklin@nasa.gov